

APPLICATION PERMIT FOR RESEARCH IN NORTH CAMPUS AREA
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
(Updated: March 12, 2014)

The North Campus Area (NCA) provides an excellent outdoor research laboratory for a variety of disciplines. Faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and visiting scientists have used the NCA for research in ecology, plant science, soils, wildlife and wetlands biology, water chemistry, geophysical sciences, permafrost, agriculture, ornithology, art, photography, native studies, and more. Its value lies primarily in its accessibility on campus and diversity of ecological habitats.

UAF's North Campus Plan (www.uaf.edu/mastplan/northcampus) seeks to ensure that the NCA remains an outstanding campus laboratory for current and future research programs. The North Campus Subcommittee (NCS), created by the UAF Master Planning Committee, reviews and approves all NCA activities consistent with the North Campus Plan. Membership and the activities of the NCS are included at the web site listed above.

All NCA research requires a permit from the NCS. Permits are valid for up to two years, with renewals possible upon further NCS review. Attached is a permit application that should be accompanied with a brief summary (3-page maximum) of your proposed work. The NCS will review your application and respond in writing, including a request for additional information (if required). The summary of proposed work should include the following:

1. **Goals:** Describe your research goals and objectives. Why is the NCA the most appropriate location for this research?
2. **Timeline:** What is the timeline for your research?
3. **Access:** Describe how you will access the site: by what means, how often, and in what seasons.
4. **Location:** Provide GPS coordinates of your proposed site(s) together with a North Campus Area map (See below) that indicates the proposed site. Specific research locations will not be divulged to the general public but will be used by the North Campus Manager strictly for management decisions. Photographs or digital images of the site are also helpful.
5. **Size and dimensions of study area:** Give the size and dimensions of your proposed study area.
6. **Site modifications:** One of the objectives of the North Campus Plan is to maintain the natural integrity of the NCA and ensure a quality research environment for the future. How will your research meet these objectives? Describe any required modifications to the location such as new trails, soil pits, boardwalks, tree removal, construction projects, or other infrastructure.
7. **Utilities:** Indicate if your research requires power lines or connections.
8. **Potential hazards:** Describe any environmental hazards associated with your proposed NCA research, including use of harmful chemicals, radiation, or infrastructure that could harm the NCA and/or its users.
9. **Potential conflicts:** The NCS is committed to maintaining quality standards of multiple use in the NCA. Describe any potential conflicts with educational or recreational users.
10. **Restoration:** The UAF North Campus Plan requires that all evidence of the research project be removed from the site within 90 days of project completion and restoration of the area. Describe how you will accomplish this.

Contact the North Campus Manager (contact information below) if you need any help with the application process. The NCS strives to expedite the permitting and approval process to make it as efficient as possible.

Regulations for Research in NCA

1. Motorized vehicles will only be allowed on designated services roads (exception, emergency vehicles) with prior authorization of the North Campus Manager.
2. Walking and use of wheeled vehicles will not be permitted on groomed ski trails in winter. The only exception will be emergency vehicle access and if a situation arises with the research project that requires access for maintenance, equipment installation, etc. and if a snowmachine will not suffice. Any researcher requiring access that includes possible damage to groomed winter trails or boggy summer trails MUST obtain permission from the North Campus Manager prior to using the trails. When required, access that has negative impact on groomed ski trails or wet areas should be coordinated with the North Campus Manager to ensure that any necessary corrective work is carried out.
3. Researchers and/or their departments will be responsible for funding repair to trails and roads caused by non-approved vehicle access.
4. Projects should be located at a sufficient distance off trails to avoid vandalism and reduce visual impact to other users.
5. Fencing for protection of research project sites is a last resort and requires NCS approval.
6. Trees and other living plant materials near the research site may not be used as signposts, supports for wires and equipment, or other uses that might cause permanent damage or provide entry points for disease or insect pests.
7. All structures, equipment, flagging, cables, and other research materials must be removed within 90 days of project completion. The researchers and/or department will be billed for anything not removed.
8. If modifications to the site have been made, it must be restored as mutually agreed upon in the permit application by the researcher, their department and the NCS. The researchers and/or department will be billed for any modifications not accomplished.

Permitting Process

Once the North Campus Manager receives your completed application it will be determined if the permit needs to be distributed to the full North Campus Subcommittee for review. If the permit goes to the committee, they will respond to the North Campus Manager within 5 working days. If there is no further discussion needed you will be notified by the North Campus Manager. If further discussion is needed the North Campus Manager will schedule a meeting to decide how the research will fit in with the values of the North Campus. The North Campus Manager will forward to the NCS Chair for final approval.

Please note that applications from students must be approved and signed by a faculty advisor or advisors. Faculty advisors and their departments or institutes will be responsible for removal of research materials and site cleanup after project completion.

Applications from researchers not affiliated with UAF require a sponsor from UAF faculty or staff.

If approved

Research sites need to be accessed in a means appropriate for the management regime of the trails/roads involved. Motorized vehicles will only be allowed on designated service roads (see map below). No walking or wheeled vehicles on designated ski trails in winter. No heavy, wheeled vehicles in wet areas. If needed, a snow machine is available for accessing research plots in winter (researchers can coordinate with the North Campus Manager). As a last resort, access that damages ski trail grooming, or creates large ruts in a wet area needs to be coordinated with North Campus Manager so that corrective dirt work or grooming can occur.

Research projects should be located away from existing trails and should be concealed to reduce vandalism and visual impact to other users. Fencing is a last resort for protecting research projects, and will require the approval of the NCS.

All equipment and artifacts from research projects must be removed within 90 days of the completion of the research project. This includes all structures, equipment, data loggers, and flagging. Responsibility and funding for removal must be identified as part of the approval process. All research projects need to fall under the responsibility of a UAF school or department that will take financial responsibility for post-project clean-up.

Continuation of research beyond the permitting period will require a permit renewal. Requests for renewal should be submitted to the NCS Chair.

If denied

Denial of permit applications by the NCS can be appealed to the Master Planning Committee. A written appeal should be forwarded to the MPC for immediate consideration by the Executive Committee. The MPC will be informed of the appeal and, if the complexity of the proposal merits, will be considered by the entire body. Final appeal can be made directly to the UAF Chancellor.

Contact for Further Information

Kara Axx
North Campus Manager
Facilities Services
803 Alumni Dr.
UAF Campus
Fairbanks, 99775
Phone: 907-474-2648
Fax: 907-474-1868
Email: kaaxx@alaska.edu

Or

Mark Oldmixon,
Chair, North Campus Subcommittee
Department of Recreation Adventure and Wellness
Phone: 907-474-6709
FAX: 907-474-5508
Email: mtoldmixon@alaska.edu

Application for Research in North Campus Area

**University of Alaska, Fairbanks
PO Box 757520
Fairbanks, AK 99775**

Project Title _____

Project start date _____ Project end date _____

Total project duration _____

Principal Investigator _____

Work Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Co-Investigators, Faculty Advisor (s), or UAF Sponsor _____

Work addresses _____

Phone numbers _____ Email _____

Department head/director _____ Phone number: _____

UAF address: _____ Email _____

Project's funding source(s): _____

Budget number (to be used only if agreed-upon repairs/restoration have not been accomplished and only with notification of researcher, department head and/or director listed above) _____

Signatures (include date)

Principal Investigator: _____ *Alison York*

Department Head or Institute Director: _____

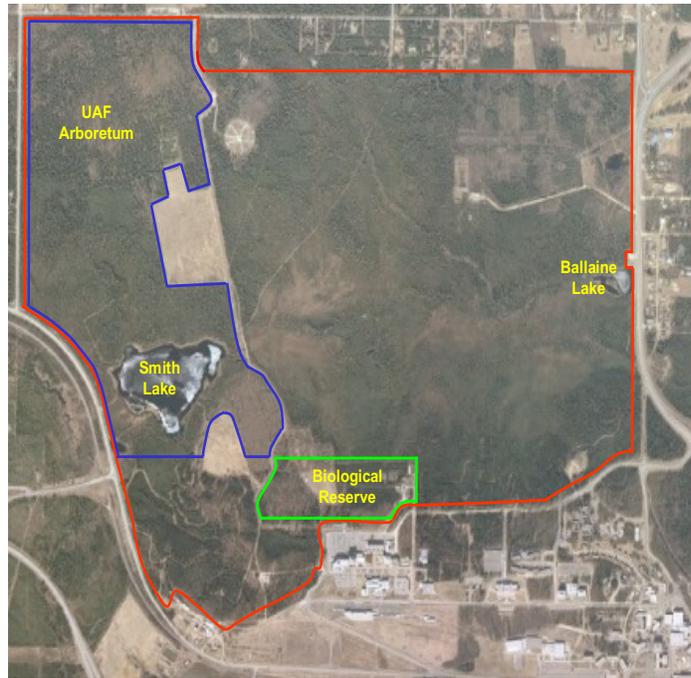
Faculty Advisor(s) if application is from a student _____

UAF sponsor if applicant is not affiliated with UAF: _____

Approved _____ Declined _____ by North Campus Subcommittee on _____

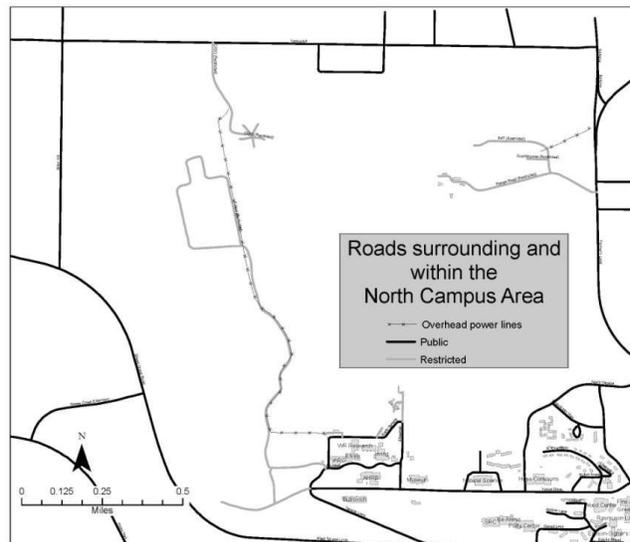
Chair, North Campus Subcommittee: _____

North Campus Area including the Boundaries of the Arboretum and the Biological Reserve

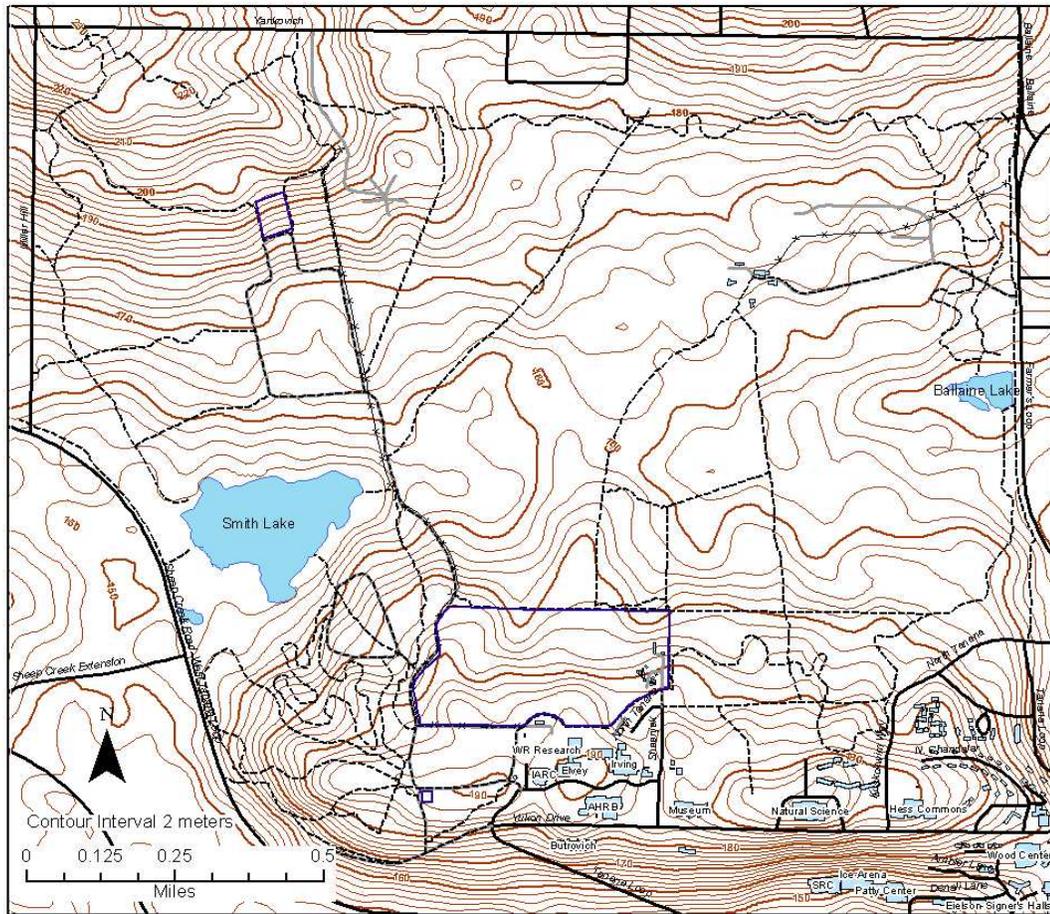


— = Approximate boundary of North Campus Area
 — = Approximate boundary of Arboretum
 — = Approximate boundary of Biological Reserve

Roads Within and Surrounding North Campus Area



Topographic Map of North Campus Area



- Fences
 - × Power lines
 - Trails
- roads**
- Public
 - Restricted



A Member of the Joint Fire Science Program Exchange Network
<http://akfireconsortium.uaf.edu>
International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks
PO Box 757340, Fairbanks, AK 99775

Summary of proposed interpretive signage and trail at 2021 Yankovich Road fire on North Campus Area

Goals

The 2021 Yankovich Road fire on NCA land (3.57 acres, started 7/16/21, declared out 7/20/21) provides a very accessible site for understanding wildland fire issues in Alaska's boreal forest. Although residents were evacuated, the fire was quickly and aggressively suppressed due to its proximity to homes in the wildland-urban interface. More information about the fire and initial response is available here:

<https://akfireinfo.com/2021/07/17/crews-mopping-up-5-acre-wildfire-near-yankovich-road-in-west-fairbanks/>

Since the fire, the Alaska Fire Science Consortium has coordinated efforts to install permanent transects for fire effects monitoring in collaboration with BLM Alaska Fire Service, the National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR Boreal Fires team, and the North Campus subcommittee. With permission from the North Campus subcommittee, we installed and collected data on 4 transects in areas inside and outside the fire perimeter in late summer 2021. We recently resampled the transects, which we plan to continue to do annually. We also developed a web page on the AFSC site with information about the fire:
<https://www.frames.gov/afsc/yankovich-road-fire>.

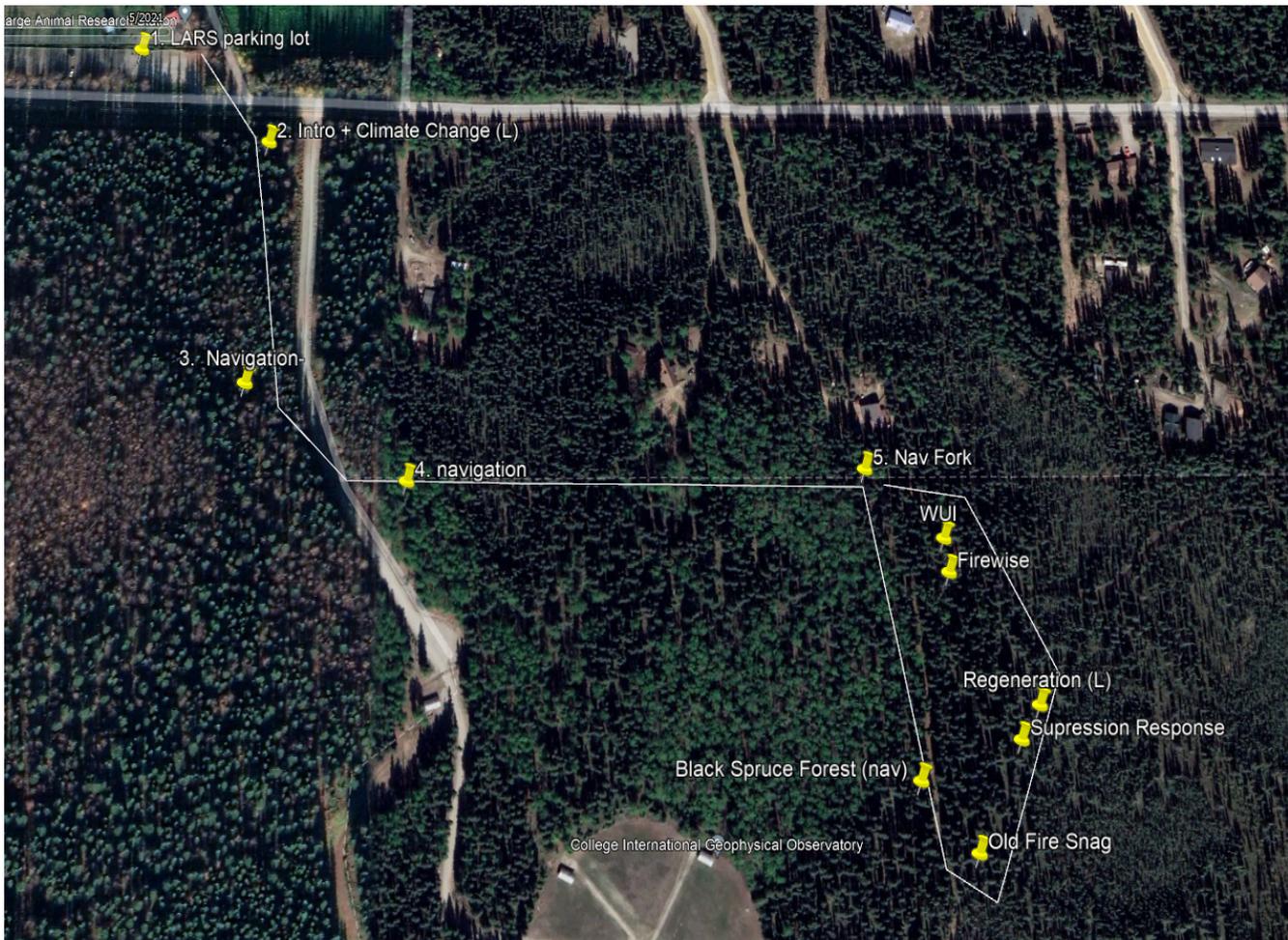
The project team proposes to expand upon the monitoring effort to provide a place convenient to UAF and Fairbanks to educate students, professionals and the public about wildland-urban interface issues and post-fire changes in vegetation and soils in a boreal forest. We propose installing a series of interpretive signs with text and graphics to enable visitors to access the site and provide a short self-guided tour of the fire scar and surrounding area to improve public awareness of wildland fire in Alaska's boreal forest, how the burned area is likely to recover over time, and the need for Alaskan homeowners to prepare their property for fire.

This fire scar offers several significant advantages as a public education site:

- Easy parking at the LARS parking lot, a site already used by visitors and the public,
- Easy access via established trails (approximately 10 minute walk from the LARS parking lot), and
- Firefighters thoroughly cleared snags (dead trees) and other hazards from the fire site, minimizing safety concerns for visitors.

Draft route, trail use and improvements

Signage will clearly indicate that this self-guided tour should only be accessed in summer and that ski trails are reserved for skiing as soon as snow falls. NCA personnel recommend adding a short wood chip trail through part of the burn site to keep visitors on the tour route. Our goal is to minimize impact on existing trail users and nearby homeowners. A draft map of the tour route and sign locations is below:



Proposed signage specifics and maintenance

Specific details are still being worked out at this time. We anticipate

- 3 small (approx 12x18) signs to assist visitors in wayfinding,
- 4-5 medium (approx 18x30) signs to point out specific elements of the tour,
- 3 large (approx 24x40) signs (one inviting visitors to the tour in the LARS parking lot, one introducing the tour at the trailhead, and one at the most severely burned part of the scar)

Draft text and graphics are being compiled by the project team here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H0zsvaLLkhS605GzOo4jZXpA8cSGfK6w1gYN3P6KtOY/edit>.

Signage will include QR codes to direct visitors to online resources for more information on specific topics. Examples include [Alaska's Changing Wildfire Environment](#). This will allow materials to be updated online as needed.

Signs will be procured from Fossil Graphics, the industry leader in outdoor interpretive signage: <https://fossilgraphics.com/>. Their products are graffiti and weatherproof and come with a 10 year guarantee. Signs will be mounted vertically to minimize soiling. UAF Facilities Services will install the signs on 4X4 weather treated posts. AFSC staff will be responsible for maintenance on an annual basis per manufacturer recommendations: <https://fossilgraphics.com/cleaning>.

Timeline

We hope to install the wood chip trail and mounting posts before winter. We would complete the design

process over the winter and install the signs early in the summer of 2023. We request a 2 year permit and will seek renewal.

Access

We will access the site on foot from Yankovich Road using existing trails. We also have permission from Jeff Adams and Mary Burtness to access the site from their adjoining property if needed for installation.

Location

The burn is 3.57 acres at approximately 64.86 X -147.85 approximately 500 feet south of Weston Drive. See route map above.

Size and dimensions of study area

The study area is the Yankovich Burn. Fire polygon is 3.57 acres.

Site modifications

Site modifications include installation of a short wood chip trail through a portion of the burn per recommendation from NCA personnel, and installation of signage as detailed above.

Utilities

No power or utilities are required.

Potential hazards

Firefighters thoroughly cleared snags (dead trees) and other hazards from the fire site, minimizing safety concerns for visitors. The wood chip trail should minimize tripping hazards and help keep visitors on the tour route.

Potential conflicts

Our goal is to minimize impact on existing trail users and nearby homeowners. Final locations and orientation for signs will be chosen in consultation with NCA personnel to limit such impact. Signage will clearly indicate that this self-guided tour should only be accessed in summer and that ski trails are reserved for skiing as soon as snow falls.

Restoration

We anticipate that this project should have a multi-decadal life span but are prepared to support sign removal and site restoration if required.